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Final Reflection “Exam”

In the scenario given, I would inform the principal that while learning does not require extensive technology, I believe it can be greatly enhanced by it. Yes, technology can be expensive, but it isn't always and it can be worth it if sensibly chosen to target specific student needs. Technology like SMART Boards allows students to interact with material in new ways, not only recording written answers, but exploring on a digital interface connected to all of the resources on the internet. This means that the class could participate in lessons that involve virtual fieldtrips to sites as far away as the French Louvre or as instable as an active volcano. Text and trade books can describe and show pictures of these sites, but being able to actively investigate a virtual representation brings students that much closer to actual experience with the information. Technology also helps to bridge understanding between many types and levels of learners in a classroom environment. Students can find visual and auditory support through various devices. They can also benefit from different personalized settings in research programs and search engines that may be specifically designed for students. Also, technology can help connect school and home. Most students in our area have at-home or public computer and/or internet access. Many parents also have access at their worksites. By using student blogs or classroom websites, resources can be made available for parents and students, providing support, supplemental activities, or communicating what we did in that school today and what is due the next day. Students may find that they can interact with their peers on the web, sharing, compiling, and discussing their ideas in a virtual classroom setting outside (or during) school hours. This could even provide supplemental time to the limited time spent at school during the day because students may be interested enough to explore pages and links on their own free time.

Essentially, technology could be very useful, and it is good to know that a computer will be available in the classroom. I may try to pull in more technology resources if I had the time to, since I believe the students could benefit from them.

*My current view on technology use in the classroom is very similar to my view at the beginning of this semester. I mention a lot of similar applications and focus on how it has the potential to strengthen learning if used in the right way so that it supplements and adds to something rather than existing unnecessarily and unused. If anything, my beliefs have definitely strengthened over this semester. In particular, I have realized how helpful a class blog would be in my future classroom. It would allow me to communicate with my students and for my students to communicate with each other. Students could also apply technology to their more creative, visual sides, communicating through videos or diagrams as well as written text. Also, I have come to recognize how universal technology-use can be throughout every subject that I teach--the ways that it is applied will vary for each lesson, but its general role will remain very strong and similar.*